

Message Text

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47

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 H-02 SCA-01 L-03 DHA-02 /019 W

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P 081700Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2450

UNCLAS QUITO 8528

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, EC (BISSELL, JANE ELLEN)

SUBJECT: W/W JANE ELLEN BISSELL

REF: STATE 295379

1. SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ANSWERED BELOW ARE INDICATED IN PARENTHESIS:

(2) BISSELL SPENT NIGHT OF OCTOBER ONE IN HOTEL GRAN CASINO, QUITO.

THIS WAS CONFIRMED BY INSPECTION OF HOTEL RECORDS BY EMBASSY
EMPLOYEE.

NO EVIDENCE THAT SHE WITH ANYONE.

(3) CROUCH VISITED BANOS ON BOTH 5TH AND 11TH. THIS WAS REPORTED IN
PARAGRAPH 3 OF QUITO 7501. AFTER EACH VISIT SHE CALLED AT THE EMBASSY
TO REPORT RESULTS.

(4) CROUCH, WHO HAD TRAVELED WITH BISSELL FOR ABOUT A MONTH, AND WHO
PRESUMABLY WOULD KNOW LATTER'S LUGGAGE, DID NOT REPORT ANYTHING
MISSING AFTER HER INSPECTION OCTOBER 5.

(5) THERE ARE FREQUENT DAILY BUSES BETWEEN QUITO, AMBATO AND BANOS.
POLICE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO CHECK PASSENGER LISTS FOR OCTOBER 1. THERE
IS NO EVIDENCE OF TRAVELING COMPANION. PLAN TO PUT THAT QUESTION TO
CROUCH.

(7) THE REFERENCE BY COL. RIVERA TO AN AMERICAN MAY HAVE BEEN
SIMPLY BECAUSE MOST TRAVELERS IN THESE PARTS ARE AMCITS. THERE
ARE INDICATIONS HOWEVER THAT POLICE BELIEVE THAT THEY MAY KNOW
HIS IDENTITY AND THAT HE MAY BE SWEDISH. EMBASSY WILL HAVE FURTHER
DETAILS IN A FEW DAYS. THE BASIS FOR THE POLICE ASSUMPTION THAT
BISSELL AND A MALE SPENT THE NIGHT UNDER THE SAME ROOF IS THAT
EACH CHECKED INTO THE PENSION AND EACH WAS ASSIGNED A ROOM IN
THE CALLE MALDONADO ANNEX.

(8) POLICE ARE AWARE OF IMPORTANCE TO THE INVESTIGATION OF THE
OTHER LODGER.

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(9) CROUCH CURRENTLY TRAVELING IN CHILE AND ARGENTINA ACCORDING TO

ITINERARY SHE LEFT WITH EMBASSY. WILL ASK AMEMBASSIES SANTIAGO AND BUENOS AIRES TO CONTACT HER THROUGH BRITISH EMBASSIES IN THOSE CITIES AS SHE SUGGESTED.

(13) IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT THE EXHAUSTIVE POLICE SEARCH WHICH TURNED UP SO MUCH INFORMATION ABOUT WHERE BISSELL HAD BEEN WAS REALLY DIRECTED TOWARDS WHERE SHE MIGHT HAVE GONE. THE SAME REASONING APPLIED TO THE QUESTIONING OF CROUCH WITH THE RESULT THAT THE SUBSEQUENT EFFORT TO FIND OUT WHERE BISSELL WENT TO. INCOVERED INFORMATION ABOUT RECENT TRAVEL THAT CROUCH COULD HAVE PROVIDED. THE LOCAL COPS WEREN'T REALLY LOOKING BACKWARDS.

(14) NO CAMERA RECOVERED. THERE WAS HOWEVER AMONG THE EFFECTS A FLASH ATTACHMENT SIMILAR IN COLOR, SIZE, AND SHAPE TO A CAMERA, WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN FOR CAMERA BY CROUCH. EMBASSY PLANS CHECK THIS POINT WITH HER. POUCHING TO DEPARTMENT FOR PROCESSING FOUR ROLLS OF EXPOSED 35 MM FILM FOUND AMONG BISSELL'S EFFECTS.

2. EMBASSY QUERYING POLICE AND COUCH AS APPROPRIATE REGARDING OTHER QUESTIONS. CONSUL AND LOCAL INVESTIGATOR GOING TO AMBATO (PROVINCIAL HEADQUARTERS) AND BANOS OCTOBER 9. BLOOMFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976QUITO08528
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760454-0005
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761262/aaaacbih.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 295379
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUN 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <06 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: W/W JANE ELLEN BISSELL
TAGS: CASC, EC, (BISSELL, JANE ELLEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006